LETTERS@METRO.US

C'S ONE WIN AWAY FROM FINALS {page 21}

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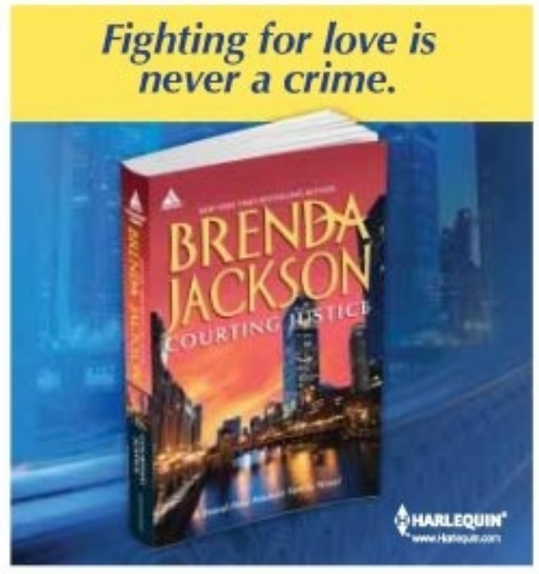

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

DAYLIGHT STABBING STUNS DOWNTOWN

- Four knifed on street bustling with tourists, workers and residents
- Authorities said victims associated with ongoing murder case at nearby courthouse
- Pedestrians diverted from bloody scene {page 02}

▶ Blood from one of the stabbing victims can be seen on a bench near the corner of Beacon and Tremont streets yesterday afternoon.

News

Hub group takes pride in gay history

- Exhibit chronologically traces Boston's gay pride movement
- 40 years of protests, celebration {page 04}

The ex should make an exit

You two broke up, so it's time to move on without that person in your life {page 11}

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In the news

1

A Haverhill teen will serve one year in jail after he was found guilty yesterday of motor vehicle homicide and texting while driving causing injury. Aaron Deveau, 18, was sentenced to 2.5 years on the homicide charge and 2 years on the texting charge. He will serve one year with the balance suspended for five years. He is the first driver convicted in the state for a death for texting-while-driving.. METRO

Correction

Yesterday's Metro reported that Massport would cut garage staff to make up for lost revenue caused by offering free Silver Line service to South Station this summer. Massport does not plan to cut garage staff, but rather reduce overtime costs to fill the gap, a spokesman said. Metro regrets the error.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ This sight will soon be rare.

Council OKs satellite dish restrictions

The City Council approved of a plan yesterday that would restrict the placement of satellite dishes on buildings.

The plan calls for new subscribers to register their dish installation with the city and would restrict them being placed on the front facade or street-facing side of the building. A subscriber would have to prove to the city that a signal cannot be received anywhere else if one must be placed on the front of the home. Current subscribers are grandfathered in.

It also calls for all dishes not in use to be removed by the company before a new one can be installed.

"It will help the aesthetics and character of the neighborhood," the ordinance's creator Councilor Sal LaMattina said during yesterday's hearing.

He's referred to the dishes as "blight" in the past. Yesterday he said they also pose a safety hazard by blocking windows and fire escapes.

Mayor Thomas Menino has said he supports the plan.

An industry trade group told the Globe recently that the plan is a terrible idea and that it would increase the cost of satellite television because it makes installations more expensive. METRO/MN

UMASS

UMass hikes tuition, fees

MASSACHUSETTS. The University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees yesterday approved a 4.9 percent tuition and fee hike for the next school year, despite opposition from Gov. Deval Patrick.

That increase will on average require in-state students to pay $580 more.

The increase applies to all undergraduate and graduate students and will mean $25 million in additional revenue, according to the school.

Patrick said he believes the system has not done enough to reduce costs. METRO

Council to examine liquor licenses

BOSTON. City Councilor Ayanna Pressley requested a hearing yesterday to examine the process of acquiring a liquor license in Boston and to examine changes to those laws.

Pressley said scarcity of liquor licenses in the city has driven up prices and scared away restauranteurs. She said some have been sold for as much as $450,000.

The order for a hearing won the support of many other councilors who also expressed concern with the process. METRO

Afternoon stabbings leave four injured

Stabbings occur on busy downtown street Officials say it involved people connected to ongoing murder trial

PHOTOS: NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Four people were stabbed on a busy downtown Boston street yesterday afternoon that was bustling with countless tourists, workers and residents.

The four people were stabbed about 1:40 p.m. near the intersection of Beacon and Tremont streets not far from City Hall Plaza where the annual Scooper Bowl event was taking place.

Police said when officers arrived on scene that they found three victims. A friend tried to drive the fourth victim to a hospital, but dropped him off on Massachusetts Avenue near Boylston Street.

Three of the victims were in stable condition and the fourth was in critical condition, police said yesterday.

Authorities said the stabbings involved people associated with a homicide case that was going on at the nearby Suffolk Superior Court.

"We believe the several individuals involved knew each other," said police Superintendent Bruce Holloway.

Police were still searching for a suspect or suspects as of press time.

Nearly a dozen police officers and detectives were at the scene hours after the stabbings. Blood was still visible on parts of the sidewalk and cement wall.

The stabbings occurred in the middle of the afternoon on a highly traveled street between Government Center and close to the Omni Parker House.

Police blocked traffic and blocked one side of Tremont Street, forcing pedestrians to walk on the other side.

▶ Clothing from the victims littered the ground near the scene.

▶ Nearly a dozen officers and detectives were on scene.

Tourists in trolleys and duck boats watched police investigate the scene while stuck in traffic.

Andria Lutnick, who was visiting from San Diego, was in the nearby King's Chapel Burying Ground as police investigated the stabbings.

"It's sad, very sad," said Lutnick, who arrived in Boston yesterday with her husband and son. "You come here just to have a good time. That's just so tragic."

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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Stabbings connected to murder case

Jury selection was ongoing yesterday at nearby Suffolk Superior Court in the murder trial of Kadeem Foreman and Terrell Rainey, both of Dorchester.

The men are charged with murder for the 2010 shooting death of 24-year-old Toneika Jones.

She was fatally shot in the front entrance of a friend's house in Dorchester.

Authorities only said that the stabbings involved people connected to an ongoing murder trial. METRO/MN

Broken peace

The stabbings come at a relatively peaceful time in Boston, which has gone more than a week without a homicide.

- Before yesterday's violence, there had only been three stabbings in the city since May 27, according to police crime statistics.
- Two of those stabbings were nonfatal.
- The third stabbing occurred May 27 when police found a stabbed man inside a burning apartment in South Boston. A woman was also found dead in the apartment from blunt force trauma.

BU's Miss USA responds to claim pageant was rigged

One Miss USA contestant is claiming that the Boston University student who won the competition this week, in part because of her supportive answer to a pageant question about allowing transgender people to compete, was crowned only because the pageant was fixed.

Sheena Monnin, the 27-year-old Miss Pennsylvania, resigned her title Monday night and took to Facebook to allege that the pageant was "rigged."

However, Olivia Culpo, the 20-year-old BU student who won the title, told Metro yesterday that she is not letting the allegations get to her.

"I'm very much laid back and I'm not a drama queen. I'm a beauty queen now, but I'm not a drama queen. I just let it roll off of my back. I think most Americans are smart enough to know that it's not rigged," said Culpo. "It's silly she would say something like that because it's just so clear that ... they make it fair. There's no two ways about it."

Culpo also said that she spent time with Monnin over the two weeks before the pageant and said "she's a nice girl."

Monnin claimed she talked with another pageant competitor who saw a list of the final five contestants days before the show in Las Vegas and that competitor's claims matched the results of the show.

"After it was indeed the Top 5 I knew the show must be rigged," she said on Facebook.

Donald Trump, the Miss USA pageant organizer, told NBC's "Today" show yesterday that he planned to sue Monnin because of her claims and that she was just bitter that she didn't win.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Culpo

▶ Monnin

Pageant says resignation over transgender issue

Pageant organizers said in a statement that they received an e-mail from Monnin that said she was resigning because the organization allowed a transgendered woman to compete in the Miss Universe Canada pageant.

Culpo has won over many supporters for her answer to a pageant question that asked her if transgender people should be allowed to compete in the competition. She said she supported that.

Culpo said she was sad to hear that Monnin was giving up her title. **METRO/MN**

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Malcolm X house

Malcolm X house is endangered

BOSTON. Preservationists made an effort to save a house in Roxbury that Malcolm X called home.

The Dale Street house that has been boarded up was added to the list of America's most endangered historic places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, officials announced yesterday.

Malcolm X lived in the home as a teenager in the 1940s. It was owned by his half-sister. **METRO/GLOBE**

Cops search for carjacking suspect

BROOKLINE. Police were searching for a man who robbed the Star Market on Beacon Street yesterday and then carjacked a person to flee the area.

The man fled toward Beacon Street after the 4 p.m. robbery and jumped into a car. The driver was able to jump out and escape unharmed before the man fled.

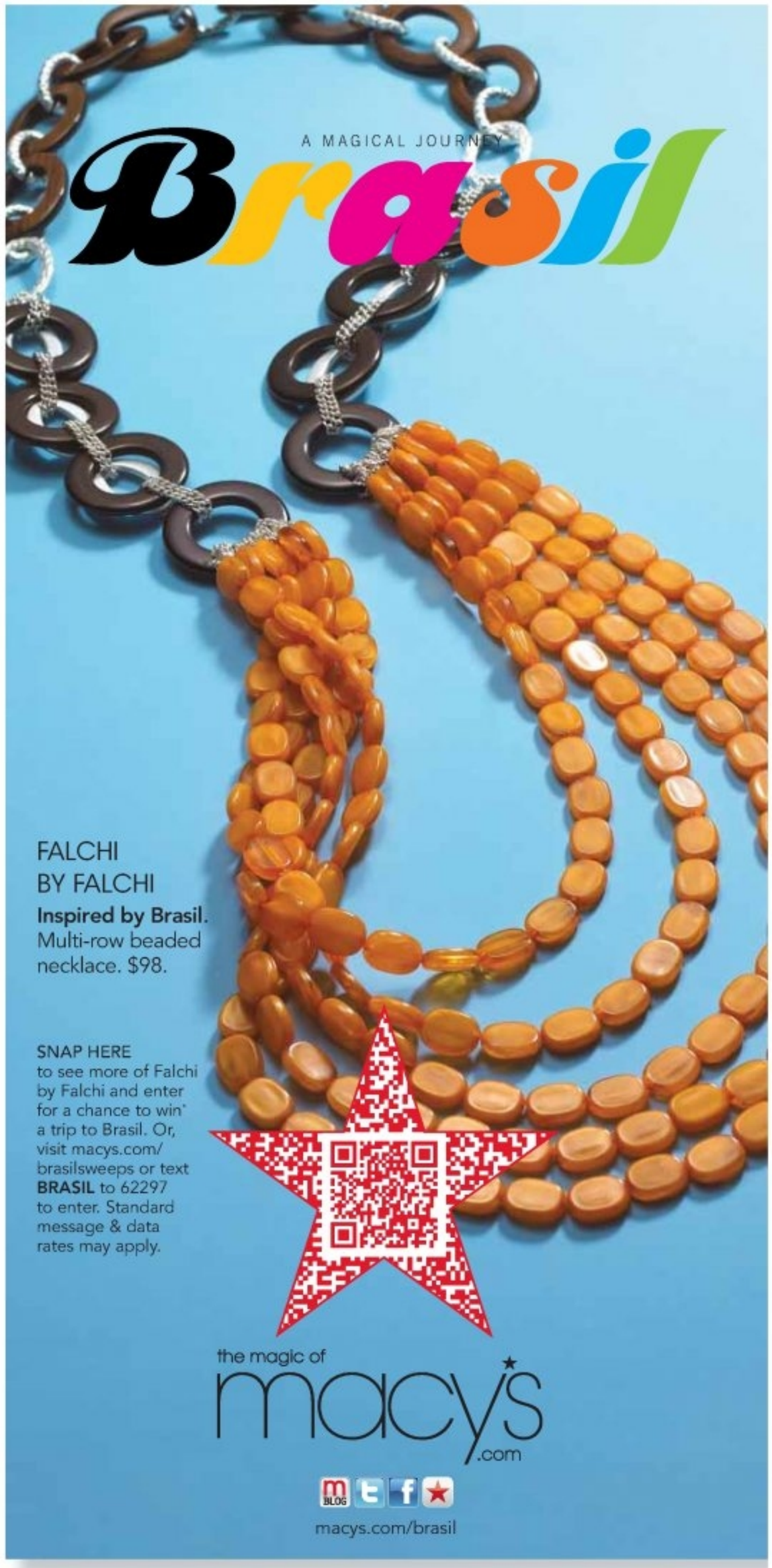
Police recovered the car a short distance away at the Brookline Hills MBTA stop. **METRO**

T wants overdue coaches

BOSTON. The MBTA and MassDOT want answers from a South Korean company that has yet to make good on a promise to supply 75 new commuter rail coaches.

Hyundai Rotem President and CEO Min-ho Lee said at a meeting yesterday that in the next two weeks he will give a time line showing when the company will provide the more modern cars.

METRO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Boston's gay pride on display

Two groups partnering for free exhibition of Hub's gay pride memorabilia 'Pride: 40 Years of Protest & Celebration' includes banners, photos, shirts and more

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Clark Crowley, creative arts program manager at the Boston Center for Adult Education, checks out the display of historical T-shirts on exhibit.

Original banners, fliers, T-shirts and photographs from gay pride groups and events dating back to the early 1970s will line the walls of the Boston Center for Adult Education until June 30.

The center partnered with The History Project, a local group that focuses on preserving the history of Boston's LGBT community, to present "Pride: 40 Years of Protest & Celebration."

The free exhibition traces the history of Boston's gay pride movement from its birth four decades ago.

"It is exhibited chronologically with text explaining the birth of pride in Boston, to what it has become today"
CLARK CROWLEY, CREATIVE ARTS PROGRAM MANAGER AT THE CENTER.

Now is as good a time as any to paint a picture of pride's history, considering the city is in the midst of gay pride celebrations this week, an annual event that now draws hundreds of thousands of participants.

Most of the artwork and memorabilia that is on display was pulled from The History Project's archives, and serves to highlight the tremendous strides that have been made in the gay pride movement since its inception, according to Clark Crowley, creative arts program manager at the center.

"It is exhibited chronologically with text explaining the birth of pride in Boston, to what it has become today," Crowley said.

The text accompanying the memorabilia gives a historic context of the landscape of pride during each time period.

Materials range from a Club Antorcha banner from 1989, to scans of pins reading "Pride Power '94," and "Gay and Straight Youth Pride 1995," as well as photography by Orlando Del Valle, a History Project board of directors member.

Also on display is "Fierce Pride 1992," a collection of black and white portraits of rally-goers captured by photographer Joel Benjamin at Boston's 1992 pride celebration.

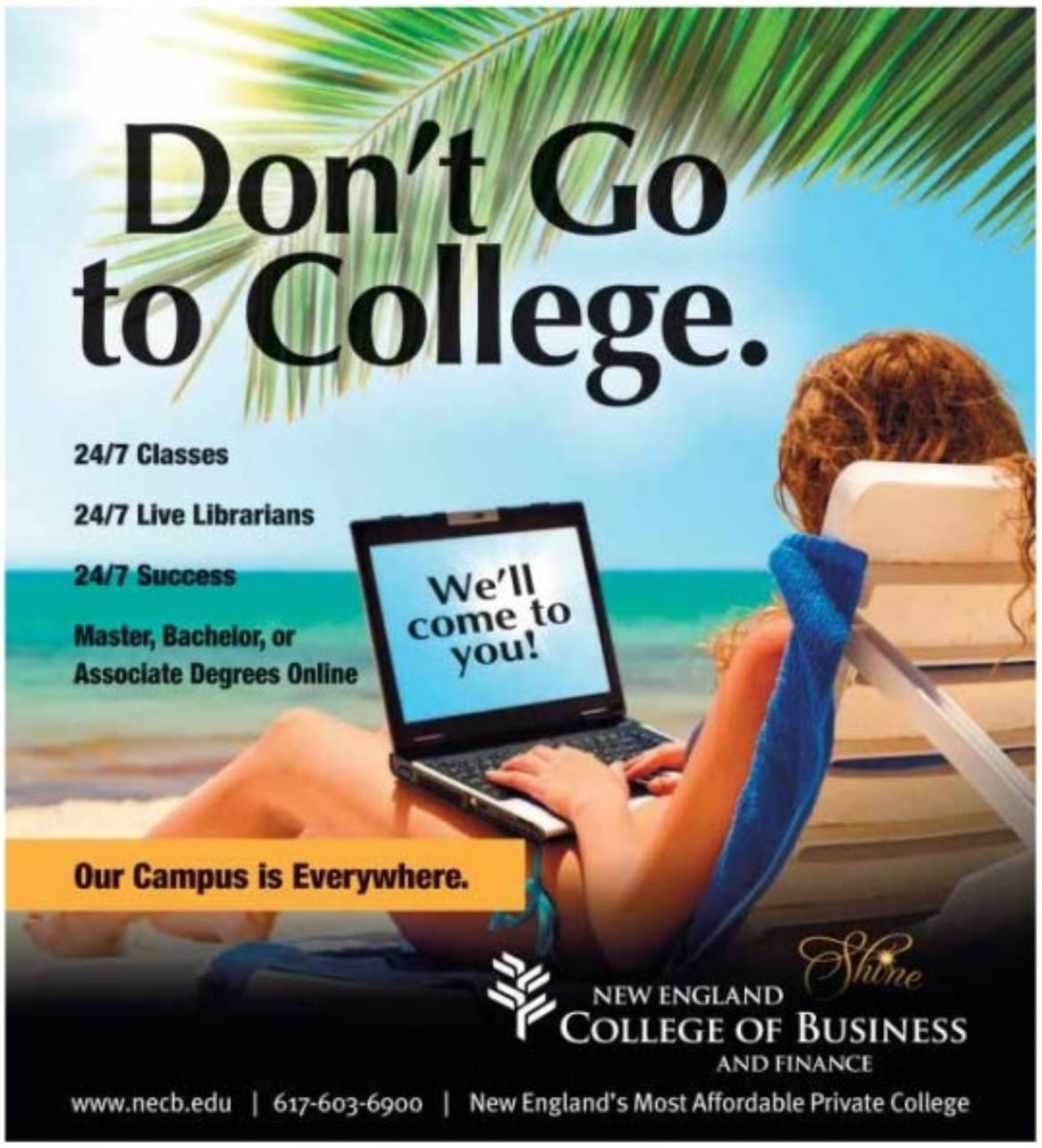
According to Benjamin, it is the first time the photographs have been on display, however some of them ran in The Boston Reader newspaper in July 1992.

"It's kind of magical," he said. "I did the project before I was a full-time photographer, and I did it out of creative love for the project. It's so nice to see the work on display. It was in a drawer for 20 years, and it is really nice to see it hanging on the walls."

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
letters@metro.us

A gay old time

- **If you go:** The exhibition is free and open to the public from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Boston Center for Adult Education, at 122 Arlington St.
- **Did you know?** Last month marked eight years since Massachusetts legalized gay marriage.
- **Boston** had its first pride march in 1971.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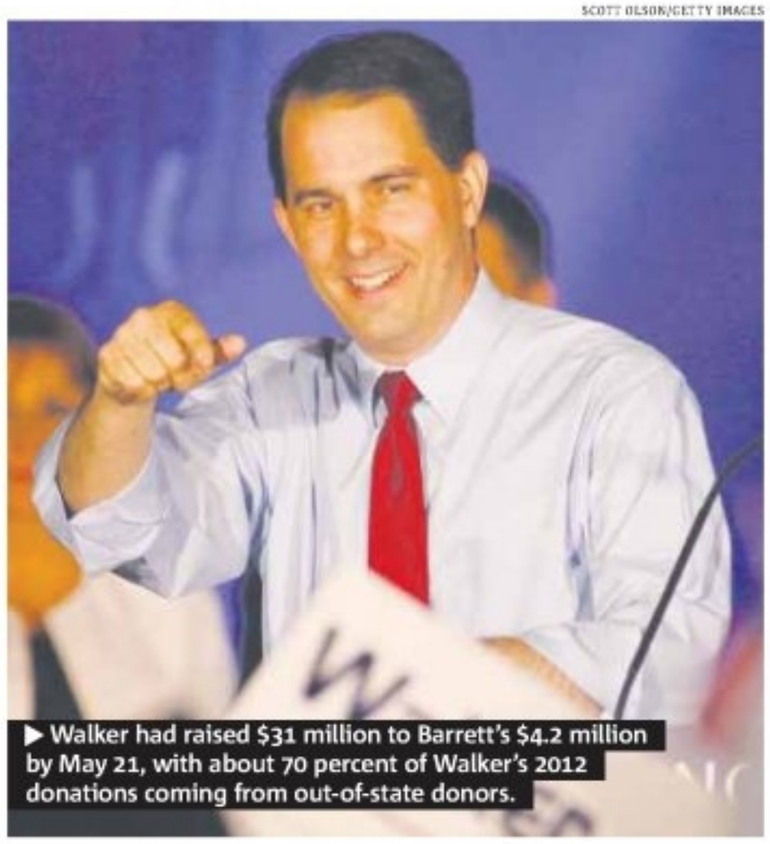
Walker's win in Wisconsin boost to conservatives

SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Walker had raised $31 million to Barrett's $4.2 million by May 21, with about 70 percent of Walker's 2012 donations coming from out-of-state donors.

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker scored more than a personal victory in Tuesday's state recall vote. He delivered a psychological boost for the Republicans and a blow to Democrats that could linger until the Nov. 6 presidential election.

Walker, a Republican, sailed to a surprisingly easy win over Democrat Tom Barrett, ending a bitter 15-month political battle over Walker's efforts to eliminate most collective-bargaining rights for Wisconsin's public sector unions.

Many of Walker's national supporters — who flooded the state with anti-Barrett ads and gave Walker a more than 7-to-1 financial advantage — saw the results as a vindication of his take-no-prisoners brand of fiscal conservatism.

They also said Walker passed what amounted to a test of voter sentiment on Republican efforts to limit government, slash spending and challenge public sector unions, a result that could elevate his stature in U.S. politics.

Yesterday, conservatives were viewing Walker's victory as a green light for Republican-led state legislatures and governments to move forward, and as a boost for Republican presidential contender Mitt Romney. **REUTERS**

"This means the Republican revolution is on. Barack Obama should start sweating."
MORDECAI LEE, A GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS SPECIALIST, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE

"It will revitalize the Tea Party side of the national party to say, 'Mitt Romney should go even harder to the right.'"
MORDECAI LEE

Obama still opposes extending tax cuts for rich

AIR FORCE ONE. President Barack Obama continues to oppose extending Bush-era tax cuts for wealthier Americans, the White House said yesterday, shrugging off calls for a temporary extension to allow more time for a deal on deficits.

"President Obama has been clear about his position and it has not changed," the White House press secretary, Jay Carney, told reporters traveling with Obama to California. "We should not extend and he will not extend the ... Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthiest two percent of the American people."

Democrats in Congress backed Obama. "We agree with the administration that Republicans should not risk a tax hike on the middle class on Jan. 1 by insisting that millionaires and billionaires get a tax break, too," said Brian Fallon, a Senate Democratic leadership spokesman. **REUTERS**

Condoleezza Rice to endorse Mitt Romney

WASHINGTON. Condoleezza Rice plans to endorse Republican White House hopeful Mitt Romney, a source familiar with her decision said.

Rice, who currently teaches political science at Stanford University in California, is sometimes viewed as a potential vice presidential running mate for Romney, although she has repeatedly ruled out such a scenario. **REUTERS**

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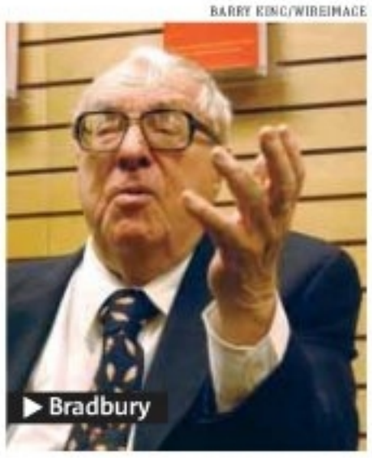
Bradbury escapes a terrifying future

Ray Bradbury, a giant of American literature who helped popularize science fiction with poetic, cerebral works such as "The Martian Chronicles," died on Tuesday in Los Angeles. He was 91.

Bradbury brought not only futuristic vision but literary sensibilities to his more than 500 works published including "Fahrenheit 451," a classic dystopian novel about book censorship in a future society, and other favorites such as "The Illustrated Man" and "Something Wicked This Way Comes."

As a science fiction writer, Bradbury said he did not want to predict the future — but sometimes wanted to prevent it. Such was the case with "Fahrenheit 451," a book published in 1953 about a totalitarian, anti-intellectual society where banned books are

BARRY KING/WIREIMAGE



▶ Bradbury

burned by "firemen."

The novel, which Bradbury wrote on a rented typewriter at the UCLA library, featured a world that might sound familiar to 21st century readers — wall-sized interactive televisions, earpiece communication systems, omnipresent advertising and political correctness.

But for a futurist, Bradbury did not always embrace technology. He called the Internet a scam perpetrated by computer companies, was disdainful of automatic teller machines and denounced video games as "a waste of time for men with nothing else to do."

He said he never learned to drive a car after witnessing an accident that killed several people and did not travel by airplane until much later in life.

Because of his visionary thinking, NASA brought Bradbury in to lecture astronauts, Disney consulted with him while designing its futuristic Epcot Center in Florida and shopping mall developers sought his input.

Bradbury, who suffered a stroke in 1999 and ended up using a wheelchair, and his wife, Maggie, who died in 2003, had four children. **REUTERS**

Facebook. Compensation

▶ The top four market makers in the Facebook IPO — UBS, Citigroup, Knight Capital and Citadel Securities — together lost upward of $115 million due to technical problems that prevented them from knowing for about two hours if their orders had gone through after Facebook began trading.

EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP/GETTYIMAGES

Nasdaq to pay $40M for IPO goof

Nasdaq said it will offer cash and rebates totaling $40 million to compensate clients affected by the problems with Facebook's initial public offering. Nasdaq said yesterday that $13.7 million would be paid to its affected member firms. REUTERS

LinkedIn hack possible, data may be at risk

NEW YORK. LinkedIn Corp., owner of the world's biggest professional-networking website, said that it's looking into unconfirmed reports of stolen passwords.

The company cites security issues as a risk for investors in regulatory filings. In a quarterly report to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission last month, LinkedIn said it has experienced website disruptions and outages for reasons that have included "denial of service or fraud or security attacks." Future disruptions were possible, according to the filing. **BLOOMBERG**

"Our team continues to investigate, but at this time, we're still unable to confirm that any security breach has occurred." LINKEDIN

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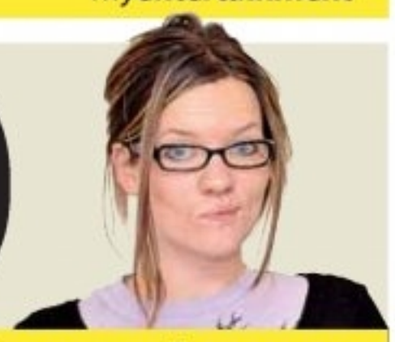


Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

Why did Miley Cyrus want a ring on it?

After rocking a sizable diamond on her left hand all spring, yesterday **Miley Cyrus** officially confirmed that she's engaged to actor **Liam Hemsworth**.

"I'm happy to share this news with you all. I feel like all my dreams are coming true," the 19-year-old tweeted yesterday.

The news comes after Cyrus took a break from recording and acting to spend time with Hemsworth, 22, and do uncomfortable interviews about their sex life.

Now, why would a 19-year-old who is not pregnant or struggling with rent money get married? Good question. At first, we were worried good old-fashioned love still existed and had been listening this whole time, but it's not quite that simple.

You see, these two met on the set of "The Last Song," a 2010 drama based on a novel by **Nicholas Sparks** — the same Nicholas Sparks who penned the most graphic of emotional girl porn, "The Notebook."

At least she fell in rabid zombie love with a cute Australian actor and not the creepy guy sweeping up popcorn.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Under all that hair and makeup, Cyrus is only 19.

Amanda Bynes wants justice

Amanda Bynes refused to take a breathalyzer or blood test when she was pulled over back in April, but she's not admitting to drinking and driving. The actress sent her lawyer to court yesterday with a not-guilty plea for the DUI charge, which could land her in jail for a minimum of 48 hours if she's convicted.

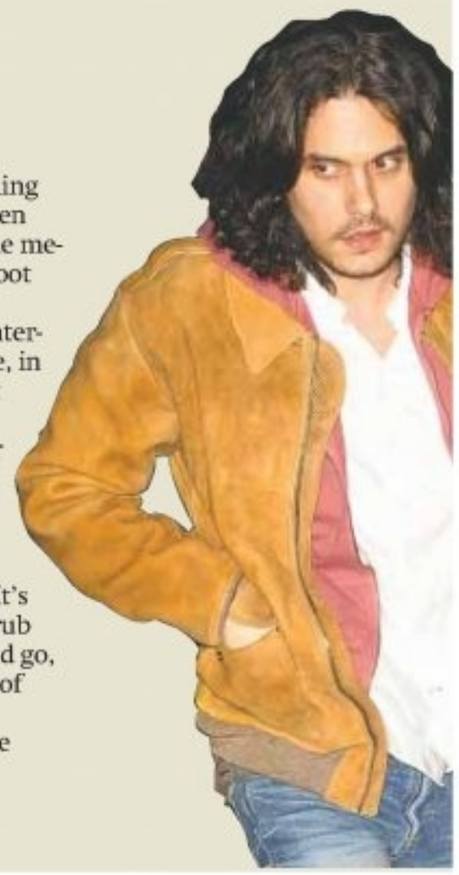
A court date is set for July 18, but in the meantime, she's not staying silent. "Hey @BarackObama... I don't drink. Please fire the cop who arrested me," she posted to her Twitter page.

Amanda, you're the most ridiculous celebrity on a page that includes Miley Cyrus and John Mayer. Go think about that.

John Mayer is finally humiliated

With a new album coming out, **John Mayer** had been trying to play nice in the media — but he's got his foot back in his smug little mouth again after an interview with Rolling Stone, in which he whines about ex-girlfriend **Taylor Swift**'s song about their split, "Dear John." He calls the hit "humiliating," taking issue with the then-20-year-old's "cheap songwriting": "It's abusing your talent to rub your hands together and go, 'Wait till he gets a load of this!' That's bulls—."

Dude: Either unwrite "Your Body is a Wonderland" or stop talking right now.



Talking points

A summer wedding for the Jolie-Pitt family

Brad Pitt and **Angelina Jolie** are going to have a summer wedding, according to E! News. "Word on the street is that Brad and Angie will make it official late this summer," Ryan Seacrest announced on his radio show, quoting E! News correspondent Ken Baker. Speculation still puts the location of the famous couple's nuptials at their estate in the South of France.

McCarthy: Jim Carrey a 'dark guy'

Jenny McCarthy says the hardest part of her split from **Jim Carrey** has been how attached her autistic son, Evan, had gotten to the actor. "I've tried to ask [Jim] numerous times [to see Evan], because my son still asks," McCarthy tells Howard Stern in an interview. "I tell [Evan] that someday you'll cross paths, meet again, [but] it's hard. He's been in therapy. It's a process, he's working on it." But McCarthy, who lets Evan watch Carrey's films, still thinks breaking up with Carrey was a good idea: "Jim's a dark guy," she says.

▶ Jim Carrey, lord of darkness

'Lost' star pleads no contest to DUI

Matthew Fox pleaded no contest to driving under the influence after his May 4 arrest in Oregon, according to TMZ. As part of his plea deal, the former "Lost" star will reportedly avoid jail time and have his case dismissed if he completes a drug and alcohol treatment program and abstains from alcohol for one year.

▶ Jack's Season 3 beard to his face: I have to go back!

The feed

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Today, Questlove knows his Draper, Pamela Anderson is sticking up for the cows, Gwyneth Paltrow wants you to know she eats and Albert Brooks is trying to understand young Hollywood.

@questlove
Not spoil alerting but I called that last #MadMen bullseye 2 years ago. #Questrodomous

@PamelaDAnderson
Rescued beautiful cow from slaughter. I named her "Gaia"

@GwynethPaltrow
Just arrived in Raleigh, N.C. to start Ironman 3! Any restaurant recommendations?

@AlbertBrooks
Why does Kristen Stewart always look like she's just hit her thumb with a hammer?

Anderson

myentertainment

Let us never be too cool for 'Piranha 3DD'

1 **Danica Patrick** and **Sonic the Hedgehog** teamed up in L.A. on Tuesday to debut their new video game.

2 **Justin Bieber** popped his collar and his hair before signing autographs in London yesterday.

3 New "Real Housewives of New York" cast-member **Aviva Drescher** hosted the show's Season 5 kick-off party at NYC lounge and bowling alley Frames on Monday night, where she was able to get in a little family time when not partying with her new crew.

4 Our favorite kind of airport candy: **Chris Hemsworth** was spotted in London's Heathrow Airport yesterday.

5 Another reason we love **David Hasselhoff**: Not only does he star in "Piranha 3DD," he seems genuinely excited about it.

6 **Beth Ditto** had some fun vamping it up at the debut of her new makeup collection for MAC on Tuesday.

1: GETTY IMAGES
2: SIMON JAMES/FILMMAGIC
6: ALEX MOSS/FILMMAGIC
5: DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY IMAGES
6: LUCA TEUCHMANN/GETTY IMAGES

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mydating

Is it time to X out your ex?

JIM SPELLMAN/WIREIMAGE

▶ Just a couple of buds: Cameron Diaz and Justin Timberlake still pal around.

Cameron Diaz is a good example of someone who does not burn her bridges of love. A-Rod's said that he cherished her even after they broke up, and she worked with Justin Timberlake on a movie after they had a relationship. It's clear that she doesn't cut people completely out of her life once the romance is gone. Some might say that's a good thing, but what could it mean to her future relationships? If you've kept up with your exes, you might want to keep reading.

Not all relationships end on a bad note. Sometimes the timing isn't right, or the spark is gone, but you really still like the other person. Is it so bad to text or call every once in a while, to see how that person's doing? What harm could that cause? How much contact with an ex is OK? The answer is, it depends.

To begin with, does your current partner know you are in touch with your former partner? If so, and he or she doesn't see it as a threat, then I would say a little contact with your old lover is harmless. If anything, that would speak to the trust that exists in your new relationship. But if you are keeping it a secret, that could be a red flag that there is more going on that you are not comfortable enough to share with your new flame. If what you are doing with your ex is taking away from your new relationship — either by creating problems or taking energy away from your new relationship — that might be an indication that it's time to close that door.

Finally, there is the chance that you are fueling your ex's possible hope that you will get back together, or maybe you are keeping that door open just in case things don't work out this time around. If you are aware of that, shift your energy to the future, instead of the past, because it is probably holding you back.

Sometimes it is what brought you together that endures. Other times, you might want to remember why you broke up in the first place.

— Relationship expert ***Dr. Jane Greer*** *is the creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *— national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships — and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* ***Healthylife.net.*** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Shrink Wrap

DR. JANE GREER

HEALTH.METRO.US

Reader love notes

Send us your love notes

E-mail **lovenotes@metro.us** with your special message. Please keep it to about 140 characters. We'll print it in next week's dating section for free!

▶ *JRR - You're my favorite little buddy in the world and I'm so glad you've been my friend for the last 23 years. Happy Birthday! Love, Buddy*

▶ ***RW, since April 13th we have been making our history together. Every day I fall deeper in LOVE with you Babe! xoxo LG***

▶ *Bighead, we've been through a lot together but hey, you're a good man to me. love u always. Who cares what the jealous ones say! Lets continue to make them mad! Haha Love, Jaime*

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father's day gift guide

Golfing gifts

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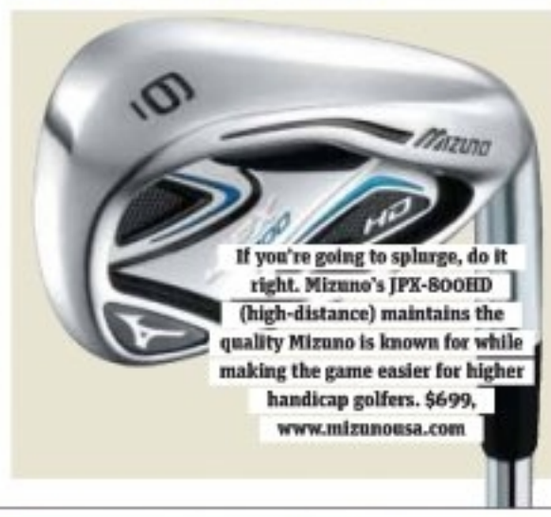

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Combine a fitness tracker, MP3 player and a golf GPS and you've got Motorola's MOTOACTV. $300, www.motoactv.com

This club was so long, it was called RocketBallz during testing. The name stuck – but if dad is a prude, tell him it's the TaylorMade RBZ, the hottest fairway wood on the market. $229, www.taylormadegolf.com

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Letters

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Blame the workers, not corporations!

RE: "GREEDY CORPORATIONS ARE ANTI-AMERICAN": In response to JD's letter about the supposed effort to crush unions, he needs to understand that high union wages have made some companies move plants overseas in order to compete with lower-wage companies. Mercedes has plants in Mexico and Eastern Europe because the wages of unionized auto workers in Germany are so high. If manufacturers in high-wage countries cannot lower some of their costs, they will lose market share and some will go bankrupt. Everyone would like high wages, but the reality is that in a global economy, this isn't always possible. Hopefully, readers who don't understand business will read up on it. **RON FALCON, VIA E-MAIL**

Does JD Ducas have an iPhone? He obviously has a computer, but I'll bet he enjoys paying low prices for clothes and other thingamajigs too. In fact, if he owns one thing that doesn't say made in the USA then he must be a traitor! The fact is consumers demand low prices, and entrepreneurs figure out how to incorporate low-cost labor to meet that demand. Does this make them unpatriotic? He should direct his anger at the politicians and the unions for destroying these opportunities in America, while lining their greedy pockets with crony capital. **HANS HAUGEN, VIA E-MAIL**

I am so tired of people screaming for equality and in the same sentence saying we should tax the rich more and the poor less. Businesses can only support what their incomes will allow. If their output is more than their input, they begin laying people off and looking for other ways to cut costs — such as relocating. We are no longer competing with American companies; we are competing on a global front, which is why Apple is having their phones manufactured in China for $4 an hour. **JOEY WHITMOYER, VIA E-MAIL**

There is no doubt there are greedy corporations, and I am not defending immoral or unethical behavior. First, JD, you have the ability to buy products and services from virtually any company you want — so if you want to personally boycott "greedy overseas corporations" go right ahead. I very much doubt, however, that you buy solely American-made products. If you increase the cost to operate a business (i.e. through higher taxes, minimum wage laws or forced unionization) that business will try and find ways to cut costs before passing them on to their customers. Believe it or not, we as Americans actually benefit from overseas products. These products cost less to produce and therefore have a lower retail price. Cheaper products make every American wealthier! **KELLY DONNOE, VIA E-MAIL**

So many vote for those who hate them

RE: "HOW DO WOMEN VOTE FOR REPUBLICANS?!": Mr. Keeley, I ask myself the same question whenever I see a woman proudly proclaiming herself part of a religion that believes and treats her like a second-class citizen. While we're on the subject, I keep wondering why gay men and women support the Republican party, which has continually invalidated their humanity. **BARB MILUSKI, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Having little patience or respect for those who throw their weight around or don't do things exactly the way you wish could cause you to speak up in ways you'll regret.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Unless you find a release for your irritability, you could become so frustrated that you're likely to pick a fight over the least little thing. Being aware of your state can help you work on it.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Assess the costs in both time and money before committing yourself to a group involvement. If the event doesn't warrant your time and energy, beg off.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Although there is nothing wrong with having strong ambitions, that might not be so regarding the ways you go about attempting to achieve them. Guard against throwing a temper tantrum.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** There is a good chance you could find yourself once again closely involved with someone with whom you've had disagreements in the past. Unfortunately, the same disputes might arise afresh.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** That curiosity of yours is likely to be a bit more intense than usual, and it could tempt you to put your nose into places where it doesn't belong. Keep your sniffer focused on your own odors.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** It behooves you to disregard the conflicting opinions of someone who always seems to know better. Any heated response on your part could only add fuel to the fire.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** The best way to avoid friction with co-workers is to not take their complaints as a personal affront. Of course, at times this might be easier said than done, but at least try.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** It's important not to misinterpret a friend's remarks or independent behavior as disloyalty of any kind. Allow him or her to be blunt at times and to follow his or her own star.

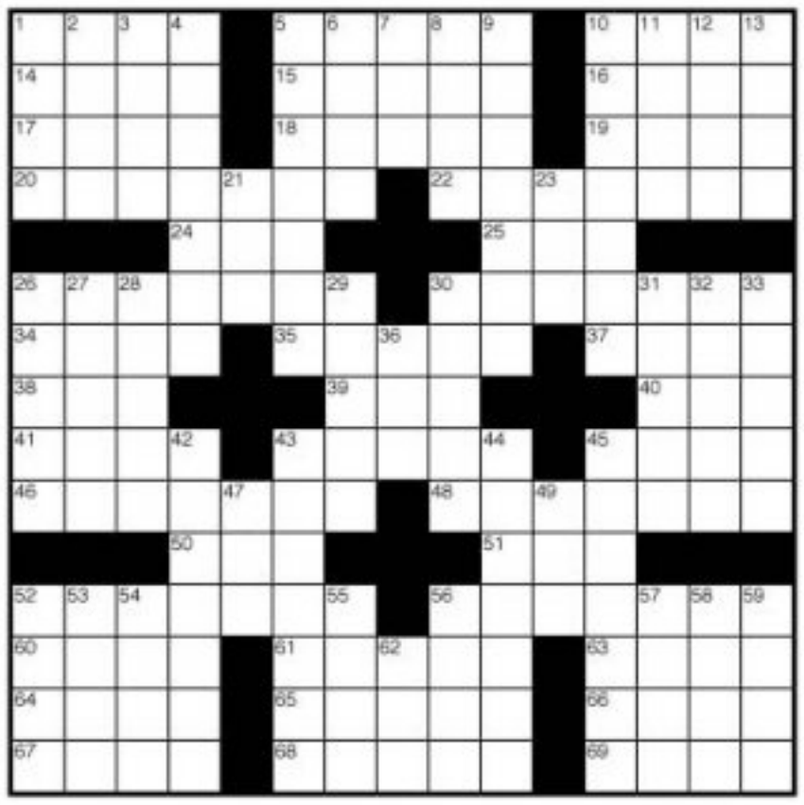
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** By reacting in kind to the irritable crankiness of someone in your household, you could unnecessarily set off an explosion among the clan. Bite your tongue or count to 10 instead.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Trying to pin the blame on another for something that goes awry will not only make you look bad, but could cost you a valued relationship. 'Fess up.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** If you can't afford to splurge a little, it would be best to leave all your credit cards at home. It will be far too easy for you to yield to your extravagant urges right now. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Play boisterously
5 Meter reading
10 "Nautilus" skipper
14 Goddess's statue
15 Bumps
16 Cheers for toreros
17 Type size
18 Male guinea pigs
19 Not that
20 Meeting
22 Amber wine
24 Haul to a garage
25 Sharp bark
26 Fixed, as boundaries
30 Gets back
34 With, to Henri
35 Fooled
37 Melt, as an icicle
38 Luau welcome
39 Old French coin
40 Motel freebie
41 Blyth and Jillian
43 Handy swabs (hyph.)
45 Connors and Nastase adversary
46 Strait's opposite
48 Cut drastically
50 Fish roe
51 Nth deg.
52 November sign
56 "Dialect" anagram
60 Gold-coated
61 Delicate hue
63 Town east of Wichita
64 Chaucer offering
65 Split to join
66 Line on a map
67 Rise abruptly
68 Units of force
69 Sea eagle

Down
1 Turbulent currents
2 Comic-strip dog
3 Beaded shoes
4 Cash alternative
5 Proud
6 By and by
7 Lord Byron's daughter
8 Pathogen
9 Put to the test
10 Tablet used by a reporter
11 Grades 1-12
12 Former Israeli leader
13 Caesar's bones
21 Charged particle
23 Mr. Hammarskjold
26 Ocean, in Mongolian
27 Makes level
28 Deke or juke
29 Wipes the woodwork
30 Enlists again (hyph.)
31 Gaelic people
32 Pigeonhole
33 Risk a ticket
36 Taro dish
42 Not as long
43 Shrank in fear
44 Miners' troughs
45 Dancer Fred __
47 MLB award
49 Mi. above sea level
52 Barracks offs.
53 Ta-ta in Turin
54 Earthen jar
55 Unctuous
56 Promontory
57 Cabinet part
58 Joie de vivre
59 Take on cargo
62 Chaney of horror flicks



	8	3		4		7		
			9		1		3	
5			8				2	
		2					6	9
7			3		6			2
8	1					5		
	5				4			6
	4		2		5			
		9		6		4	8	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

1			8			9		
		3		2				5
	2		9	1			7	
		5	2		3			
3			4		6			2
			5		1	7		
	8			6	9		4	
6				4		1		
		1			8			6

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

M	A	L	T		R	O	O	S	T		V	A	S	E
A	G	A	R		E	D	G	E	D		O	D	E	S
A	U	R	A		V	O	L	E	S		C	O	A	T
M	E	A	N	D	E	R	E	D		P	A	S	T	A
			S	I	R			D	E	L				
S	H	R	I	N	E	S		B	U	I	L	D	E	R
T	O	U	T	S		H	O	O	D		Y	E	T	I
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O	L	E	O		A	C	R	E		S	A	U	D	I
D	E	R	R	I	C	K		D	A	U	N	T	E	D
			D	I	S				S	E	T			
R	A	D	I	I		F	A	N	C	Y	F	R	E	E
A	L	A	N		A	L	B	E	E		A	I	M	S
T	E	R	A		C	A	B	I	N		R	C	M	P
A	X	E	L		E	X	A	L	T		M	O	A	N

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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hot tickets

GETTY IMAGES

Built to slowly pour out

▶ Martsch's fans eagerly await a new Built to Spill album, but will settle for a killer solo.

The indie guitar group from Boise may not have a new album out soon, but singer Doug Martsch says he's at least thinking about working on it

It's been almost three years since Built to Spill released their last album, "There Is No Enemy," which hit the streets in October 2009. According to a recent press release from the band's label, Warner Bros., a new BTS album will be released next year. With a big tour not due until the end of August, we might presume that after they finish the handful of June shows they have booked that they'll be busy for the rest of the summer finishing the record.

"We'll be busy getting started on the new record," corrects singer/guitarist Doug Martsch. "It takes a whole summer just to get started at this point in my life."

Quoted

"It takes me so long to work on stuff these days, I just don't know if it will be done in that time frame. It's not really working with stuff that takes up time, it's living with stuff and spending time with it." MARTSCH

The Boise indie rocker reports this fact in a dry tone. So, is 2013 an accurate forecast for the new record's release?

"I really have no idea," sighs Martsch. "A month ago, I thought so. It takes me so long to work on stuff these days, I just don't know if it will be done in that time frame. It's not really working with stuff that takes up time, it's living with stuff and spending time with it. ... I always have this dream that it will go quickly and be how a person imagines it goes when someone makes a record: They go in, they lay down their tracks and that's that. But it doesn't ever seem to work that way for me."

If you go

Built to Spill
June 22
The Paradise
967 Comm. Ave., Boston
$25, 18+, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

Boise in the hood

Over the past year, Martsch, along with Built To Spill guitarist Brett Netson, has been DJing. Every Wednesday evening (Netson takes Fridays), Martsch spins for Radio Boise, which streams at www.radioboise.org.

"It's almost as much fun as playing music live, but there's definitely less pressure. Playing live is so much fun. Making records is not very much fun for me."

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

Tickets

▶ Neil Young

On sale soon

▶ **Land Shark Lager Presents: Zac Brown Band**
Sept. 9
Comcast Center
(On sale Saturday)

▶ **Dropkick Murphys**
Halfway to St. Patrick's Day
Sept. 21
Bank of America Pavilion
(On sale Saturday)

▶ **Gotye**
with Missy Higgins and Jonti
Sept. 22
Bank of America Pavilion
(On sale Friday)

▶ **Grizzly Bear**
Sept. 22
The Orpheum
(On sale Friday)

▶ **Social Distortion**
with Lindi Ortega
Oct. 30
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

▶ **The Past The Present The Future with Neil Young & Crazy Horse**
with Patti Smith
Nov. 26
TD Garden
(On sale Friday)

Also onstage

Victor Wooten

Saturday, 8 p.m.
The Paradise
967 Comm. Ave., Boston
$23, 18+, 617-562-8800
www.thedise.com

Boston's been blessed by the bass gods this week. Not only is Bootsy Collins funkin' up the House of Blues, but this virtuoso, best known for his work with Bela Fleck, will also grace us with his low-end eminence. With a skill so complete it borders on the grotesque, Wooten practically turns the bass into a whole band by itself.

▶ Wooten

Smoking Popes

Tuesday, 8 p.m.
Middle East Downstairs
480 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
$16-$19, 18+, 617-864-3278
www.mideastclub.com

Chicago's Smoking Popes were easily distinguished from their '90s pop-punk ilk by their singer, who, instead of employing the typical snotty adolescent yelp, crooned with a smooth, romantic air closer to Morrissey — but without the self-aggrandizing sarcasm. They broke up briefly after he converted to Christianity, but apparently God is a Smoking Popes fan, because they're back in action. MATTHEW DINARO

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Smoking Popes hit the Mid East Down next week.

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Somewhere only Keane know

UK band are back to normal with 'Strangeland' Songwriter talks about the importance of connecting with the countryside and his bandmates

In the years since the release of their 2004 debut, "Hopes and Fears," with its massive crossover hits "Somewhere Only We Know" and "Everybody's Changing" it's become easy to point to what you might call the Keane sound: Plaintive piano pop, melodramatic ballads reaching for the cheap seats and more often than not, landing. You might also call it middling dreck, depending on your taste. But their past two releases, 2010's "Night Train" EP, and 2008's "Perfect Symmetry" were slight detours for the U.K. hit-makers, with the former experimenting with more complex rhythms and percussion, and the latter leaning into a careening new wave and synth-driven pop-funk synths.

This year's "Strangeland," which came out last month and became the band's fifth No. 1 album, is something of a return to form. It has a relatively stripped-down sound: Romantic piano ballads and heart-on-sleeve crooning characterized by singles like the pleading, pretty "Silenced By the Night."

"I think we definitely went on a bit of a journey with 'Perfect Symmetry' and 'Night Train,' and that was fun and exciting, but I sort of felt as a writer that I was missing something by the end of that process," songwriter and pianist Tim Rice-Oxley explains.

In the interim he worked on a side project with Keane bassist Jesse Quin called Mt. Desolation.

"It had more of a country vibe," he says. "The songs I wrote for that were much more emotional. I found it satisfying, and wanted to reconnect with that kind of writing."

The latest Keane album, he says, was an attempt to "get in touch with something directly emotional without being sort of arty and obtuse."

LUKE O'NEIL
luke.oneil@metro.us

If you go

Keane
June 12
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston
$35-$49, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

Familiar 'Strangeland'

The album was recorded at Rice-Oxley's own studio, which provided plenty of time for trial and error: He wrote some 80-90 songs before winnowing it down. The return to the rural was beneficial for his process, he says. "I just moved back down to the countryside a couple of years ago near where we grew up. It's a lovely little town, rural and tucked away, isolated from all the hubbub of the music business and everything else. It's good for us to be able to hunker down, be a gang, and not be distracted, he explains. "I find it important to lock myself away and really focus on stuff. I find I think really clearly in the countryside. I find the city inspiring, but I feel like I connect with something in my core when I'm back in the country under the open sky."

ALEX LAKE

▶ Keane are keen to make some daring fashion choices.

'Great bands come out of small towns'

"We all grew up in small, reasonably rural towns, and I think that effects your way of looking at the world. Traditionally, a lot of great bands come out of small-town life, and the feeling of being a little on the outside, looking in, especially in the U.K. ... I think the themes of the album are quite philosophical, I suppose. I think being close to nature and seeing things in a wider context – we're always thinking the throng of the city is all that matters – I think that affected the writing and the sound, as well."

The public should look into 'Private Lives'

When the curtain rose at this performance of the Huntington Theatre Company's razor-sharp production of "Private Lives," the audience applauded Allen Moyer's splendid set. The much-deserved appreciation for the stunning hotel terrace quickly turned to raucous laughter that continued for the entire three-act, two-hour performance.

All the pieces need to fit perfectly into place in order for the caustic stylings of Noel Coward to work. Director Maria Aitken seems to be channeling the acerbic playwright for this truly flawless piece of Coward. The ensemble captures the requisite cadence from the top and never misses a syllable of the barbed banter.

PAUL MAROTTA

▶ Autumn Hurlbert and Sam Waterston star in Noel Coward's "Private Lives."

Bianca Amato feels like dream-casting as Amanda, the elegant, sophisticated socialite who's not afraid of getting down and dirty to get what she wants. James Waterston is equally adept as her ex-husband turned extramarital lover Elyot. The duo have nicely created a couple who, while caught up in highbrow appearance, derive perverse pleasure from their own ghastly, self-serving behavior.

Autumn Hurlbert is delightful as Elyot's naive, slightly dim-witted wife Sibyl and Jeremy Webb shines as Amanda's latest musing, the buttoned-up Victor. Local favorite Paula Plum rounds out the ensemble in a delightful turn as the French maid.

Though Coward's trademark cynicism and irreverence are a large part of his appeal, the light-hearted comic references to domestic violence are uncomfortable at best. Perhaps in 1930 it was OK to say "certain women should be struck regularly, like gongs." It's not OK.

Many people just laughed right along, accepting it as vintage Coward. For others, it was the lead balloon in an otherwise perfect parade.

NICK DUSSAULT

If you go

'Private Lives'
Through June 24
Huntington Theatre
264 Huntington Ave.,
Boston, $25, 617-266-0800
www.huntingtontheatre.org

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music&movies

Top 3 films

▶ "Prometheus"

1 'Prometheus' One of the summer's most hotly anticipated films is finally out this weekend. Ridley Scott returns to the franchise he started with the 1979 classic film "Alien," but this film may or not be a prequel. A group of scientists and engineers travel to a foreign planet in the hopes of discovering their origin.

2 'Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted' Still desperately trying to get back home to New York City, the old gang finds themselves seeking cover in a traveling circus that's touring Europe.

3 'Snow White and the Huntsman' This year's second revival of the fairy tale about the fairest in the land and her seven little buddies is much grittier than its glossy predecessor, "Mirror Mirror." METRO

Songza freedom

New digital music service is your personal DJ This may be the first free service to make sense at a party

Most digital music services are great for your workday, when you just need anything to distract your senses from the cubicle walls enclosing you. But even the most social of these services don't have the sort of reliability that you'd trust to provide a party soundtrack.

That's where Songza comes in. A streaming platform that is calling itself a music concierge service, Songza mines years of music history and today's music blogs for the best gems, so you don't have to. The company has 18 million songs in their database and 25 employees — each of whom they have given the enviable job title of "music expert." The bullet point beneath "music expert" on these people's résumés will show that their main priority is creating playlists.

"The DJ is crucial," says Elias Roman, CEO and co-founder of Songza. "Without that element, the validation from someone we trust, the music feels a little less human."

Users can also create their own playlists. Combined with the music experts' lists, there are already 100,000 on the site.

Another plus: Even without becoming a member, there are no audio ads on the site.

"To us, the idea of you hearing a toothbrush commercial while your listening to our Indie Makeout playlist just feels like selling a parachute with holes in it," says Roman. "We would never do it."

So there must be a catch. Yes, there are a few. Though Songza's radio license gives them access to more songs than you'd ever be able to listen to in a lifetime, it also means that users can't press a "back" button if they want to hear a song again. The radio license also prohibits Songza from displaying a list of the songs on their playlists. The company has what co-founder and COO Peter Asbill calls a "gentleman's agreement" with other streaming services about a skip limit. Both Songza and Pandora have a six-song skip limit.

"People have said to me, 'That's great, you don't have a skip limit,'" says Asbill. "We do have a skip limit, but I guess if you're not reaching it, we're doing something right."

▶ Songza has teamed up with Metro to bring you a playlist every week. Visit us online at www.metro.us/songza to check out this week's group of pre-gaming tunes for your Friday night. And visit www.songza.com to check out playlists that include everything from vintage reggae cover songs to cowboy lullabies.

The team:

Asbill

Roman

Your concierge awaits

Though Songza is great for a party playlist, the service is no fair-weather friend. They have playlists of all varieties. When you log on, it will tell you the day and time, and try to help you figure out what sort of tunes you're looking for. They have playlists for falling asleep, for waking up, for going to the beach, for reading and even for the workday.

"No one comes to Songza looking for American primitivism or film scores," says Roman, "but it turns out that those are both amazingly conducive to working in the office without offending anyone in the next cubicle, so those are among our most popular playlists."

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

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drinks

Everything is fine at Happy's, OK?

THURSTY

LUKE O'NEIL
TWITTER: @LUKEONEIL47

Happy's is the recent Fenway opening from Michael Schlow — the notable restauranteur behind Tico and Radius, among others — and is another example of what I like to call the passive-aggressive domestic drama bar. You're familiar with the premise, I'm sure: "What's wrong?" "Nothing is wrong." "Are you sure?" "Yes. Everything is fine."

Everything is fine here. The space — with a high tin roof ceiling that adds to the roomy, warehouse-like feel in the front bar, and an adjacent dining room that leads back to the kitchen — is certainly a step up from whatever depressing steakhouse chain used to be here (I've already forgotten). So too is the food: hearty, comforting plates for sharing at the bar like duck tacos, straight-ahead buffalo wings and perfectly crunchy meatballs in a basil tomato sauce. The brick walls are colored with splashes of graffiti, and a cheery cartoon mural on one wall seems like a suggestion toward mimicking the spot's namesake: "Fine! I'm happy. Are you happy now?".

EBIN BALDASSARI/METRO

▶ Despite our review, it does actually seem like people at Happy's are, in fact, happy. They were watching the Celtics on Tuesday though, and that game certainly made a lot of people in Boston happy.

While the bartenders seem keen to experiment, and certainly competent enough to shake up a perfectly fluffy pisco sour, the cocktail list here seems geared toward entry-level cocktailers, despite their calling out some venerable oldies on the list — Negronis and Old Fashioneds and the like.

On one visit, the bartender seemed especially determined to let us know he could work outside the bounds of the list and make "anything we wanted." Not a great vote of confidence for drinks like The A and P, made with jalapeno-infused tequila, passion fruit, lime and agave, which tasted mostly like a glass of passion fruit with a light spice burn on the back end. (Taking a sip of the tequila on its own, which was quite nice, unlocked the cocktail and made it easier to mentally deconstruct the flavors midsip.)

His offering, reusing the spicy tequila with St. Germain, strawberry puree, Cointreau, lime and orange juice with a sugar and cracked pepper rim, was, as promised, much more interesting.

Much like getting in a fight with your significant other can be a good way to change things up every now and again, a visit to Happy's might add a little drinking spice to your routine, but it's not necessarily something you'd want to do all the time.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

If you go

Happy's
1363 Boylston St., Boston
857-753-4100, www.happysbarandkitchen.com

Father's Day

Raise the bar for Father's Day

Thor

Thor, the new limited-edition whiskey inspired by Nordic gods, Vikings and general Scottish badassery: Yes.
$199, www.highlandpark.co.uk

The mighty Thor!

Glenlivet 18

Glenlivet 18 Year Old is the perfect Father's Day scotch: Nice enough to give as a gift, but not so nice that he won't pour you a glass.
$74, www.theglenlivet.com

ArchitectMade Spring Drinking Glasses

White wine would look silly in these. So would chocolate milk. Designed by architect Jorn Utzon, these Draper-esque glasses are ready for a well-deserved stiff drink.
$79 (set of two), www.module-r.com

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food

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Nosh On

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SS MOUNT WASHINGTON

Champagne brunch on the high seas? Yes, please!

Dress up or dress down; go urban or rural. Either way, bring your sea legs and dancing shoes for dinner-cruising Boston's inner harbor on an elegant yacht, or sailing New Hampshire's Lake Winnipesaukee on a grand old ship.

Urban

The Odyssey's Sunday Twilight Dinner Cruise's band mixes Sinatra with Cee-Lo. Large glasses are rimmed with shrimp and filled with salmon and avocado mousses and fresh mango salsa. Tasty wines and beers pair with a starting salad of fresh mesclun leaves and sliced strawberries dressed with a hint of sweet tangy vinaigrette. The entree choices include tender, robustly flavored short rib matched with mash and orange-glazed salmon with an herby-earthy — in a good way — green tea-infused couscous. After a turn around the dance floor or outdoor deck, finish with rich chocolate torte or all-American cheesecake. Don't miss Old Ironsides bellowing at dusk, though.

Rural

New Hampshire's lakes district is dominated by majestic Lake Winnipesaukee, the Granite State's largest lake. It's big enough to take the magnificent S.S. Mount Washington II. Offering champagne brunches and various dinner cruises, the all-you-can eat buffet includes a beef carvery with traditional vegetables, baked fish, vegetarian pasta and salads. After some calorie burning on the dance floor, it's time for the dessert buffet. Don't forget to pause to take in the breathtaking views all around.

The details

Dress up for Odyssey dinner cruises. Otherwise, it's smart-casual. Tickets: $52+
60 Rowes Wharf, Boston
www.odysseycruises.com

The Mount is more casual; jeans are accepted. Tickets: $43+
S.S. Mount Washington II
211 Lakeside Ave. Weirs Beach, Laconia, NH
www.cruisenh.com

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GANG GREEN

Celtic Pride grips the city as Boston is one win away from berth in NBA Finals for the third time in five years ◗ Banner 18 five wins away ◗ Looking to close out ECF at home

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Paul Pierce, center, has been doing the honors of pumping up the Celtics before each playoff game during this 2012 run.

The Celtics are one win away from the NBA Finals. Crazy, right? But if the Celtics go into Game 6 as shocked as the world is, they'll get run out of the building in front of their home fans. The key to Boston's success has been the strong belief from within that what they're doing is not surprising, but expected. They're competing with the best because they know they can be the best.

Kevin Garnett has said it countless times. He hears the doubters, the haters, the people who say he and the Celtics are too old. What are those people doing now? Probably picking through a plate of crow.

But what others say only goes so far. It's what has gone on inside the locker room that has given the Celtics new life, and a chance at the NBA Finals.

"We're just a good team," Rivers said after Game 5. "A close-knit team. We have a lot of positive talk in our locker room. And I think it fuels them. Honestly, they think they can win, and we just got to keep hanging in there. I told them, 'We've done nothing.' We're playing a heck of a basketball team. So just because we're going to Boston (for Game 6), I told them, 'We have to play. They're not going to give it to us. We have to go get it.'"

The Celtics should be well aware that opposing teams don't just go away when faced with elimination. In the last five seasons, the Celtics are 10-13 when they have a team on the brink of elimination. They blew a 3-2 lead to the Magic in the 2008-09 Eastern Conference finals, and blew another 3-2 lead to the Lakers in the 2009-10 NBA Finals.

But this is a different team, one constructed of a group of players who know their roles well, a coach who knows his team well, and an "Ubuntu" philosophy that has never rung truer.

The Heat would be smart to take notice.

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

The hate game

The Celtics are using off-court comments to drive them this postseason.

Paul Pierce shot back at Saturday Night Live performer Jay Pharoah early yesterday morning, by tweeting, "Who is Jay Pharoah?" The comedian was on ESPN's "First Take" prior to Game 5 and called Pierce an "actress" and "diva" in regards to Pierce's perceived flopping ways.

Wally Szczerbiak backtracked on WEEI yesterday regarding his "KG lacks the clutch gene" tweets last week about his former 'mate.

Heat ready to mail it in?

They say timing is everything. Among other things, the Heat are currently struggling with that concept. Two off-court pieces of news surrounding Miami raised some eyebrows yesterday as Heat sharpshooter Mike Miller is ready to auction off his 9,000-square-foot home in Pompano Beach, Fla. In addition, FOX Sports reported that Miami is set to make an offer to free agent point guard Andre Miller this offseason. METRO

In the news

NFL lawsuits

The NFL's concussion crisis is set to go to court. More than 2,000 former players will combine nearly 100 concussion-related lawsuits in a "master complaint," the Los Angeles Times reported yesterday.

The lawsuits allege that the NFL deliberately concealed the link between football-related head impacts and long-term neurological injuries to players.

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MLB

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Clay finds his way?

Buchholz starting to turn things around after ugly start Tonight's start against Baltimore will go a long way in proving that he's back

On May 6, Clay Buchholz faced the Baltimore Orioles at Fenway Park. He left that start a broken man, having given up five runs in just 3 2/3 innings and watching his league-worst ERA soar to 9.09.

Whispers about demoting Buchholz to Triple-A, or placing him on the disabled list, had become full-blown talking points.

On June 7, Buchholz will face the Baltimore Orioles at Fenway Park. He will enter a man with momentum, having posted a 3.98 ERA in five starts since, including an eight-inning gem in Toronto six days ago.

While another member of the rotation is the one being demoted, the vultures have left Buchholz behind. Talk surrounding the right-hander has died down, and that's a good thing.

14

Clay Buchholz has not fared well against Baltimore as of late, having given up 14 earned runs on 25 hits and 10 walks in just 15.2 innings in his last three starts.

Like a lot of pitchers, Buchholz's success hinges heavily on his fastball and changeup. When both are effective, he keeps hitters off balance. In 2010, when he nearly won the American League ERA crown, he rocked opponents back and forth with those offerings. But early in 2012 the fastball velocity was down, and often misplaced, and the changeup was erratic.

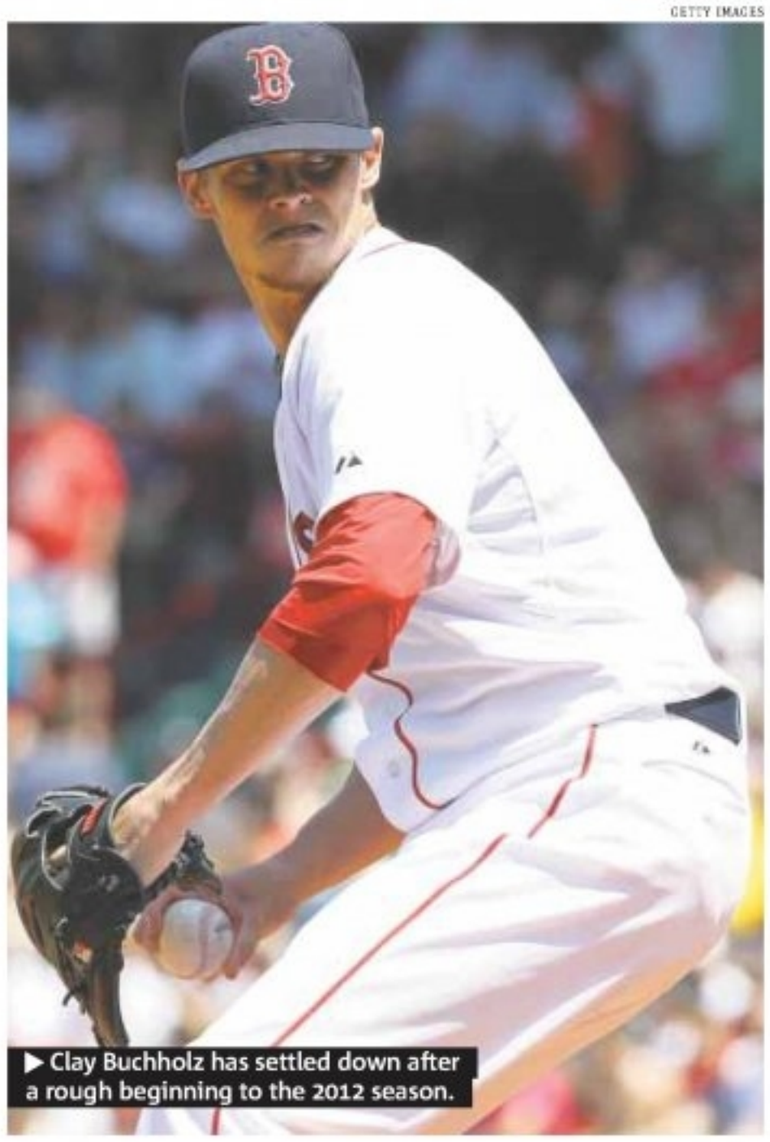
However, against Toronto his last time out, Buchholz's fastball averaged a season-high 92.74 mph, perhaps a sign of his return to full strength. Also, he has 11 swings-and-misses on his changeup in his last two starts, just one fewer than his previous nine outings combined. The arsenal has improved. It is no surprise that the results have as well.

If you are a Red Sox starter in 2012, the best you can ask for is a little peace and quiet. When Jon Lester has had his occasional blowups this year, we wondered aloud if he will ever be the dominant lefty many envisioned. Josh Beckett and Daniel Bard have had circus-like campaigns. And Buchholz was engulfed with questions amid his John Lackey-like start. The only one to cruise through the media crunch relatively unscathed has been Felix Doubront, whose one knock may be that he has yet to last seven innings in each of his 14 career starts.

For now, life in Buchholz's world is pretty quiet. Another solid start tonight against Baltimore and the volume will remain pleasantly low.

TONY LEE
letters@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Clay Buchholz has settled down after a rough beginning to the 2012 season.

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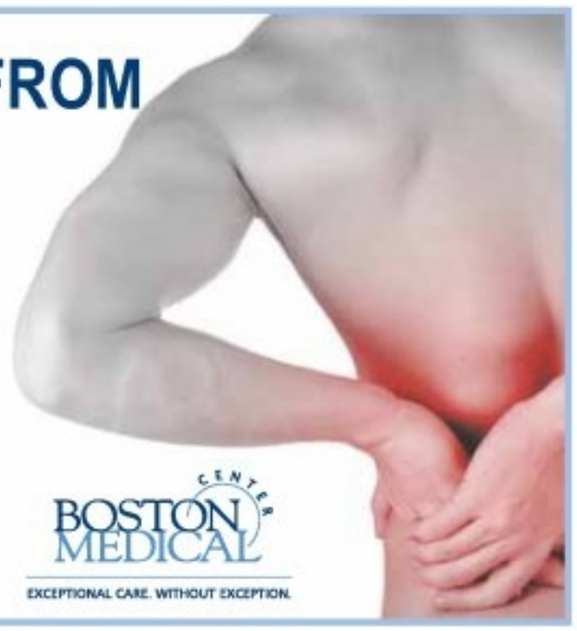

News in brief

Dice-K to officially return Saturday

Daisuke Matsuzaka will indeed get the start Saturday afternoon (4 p.m., NESN) against Washington in place of the struggling Daniel Bard, who was optioned to Pawtucket Tuesday.

Dice-K last pitched for Boston on May 16, 2011, against Baltimore, allowing five earned runs and walking seven in just 4.1 innings. He had Tommy John surgery a few weeks later and has been out of the picture since.

Matsuzaka has looked sharp overall in his minor league assignments and had a brief tune-up for Pawtucket on Tuesday night, working 1.1 innings.

Bard, meanwhile, is set to pitch Friday night for Pawtucket in the first step toward attempting to solve his mechanical issues.

Sox set to sign draftees

The Red Sox are close to inking first round draft pick Pat Light and second round pick Jamie Callahan after being drafted this week, WEEI reported. Both Light (Monmouth University) and Callahan (Dillon High School, South Carolina) are right-handed pitchers.

Boston also drafted Braintree High School pitcher Patrick Delano in the 35th round.

MATT BURKE

Thursday, June 7, 2012

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